

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 157803

41

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHKELLY/SB

APPROVED BY EA - MR. SNEIDER

EA/K - MR. RANARD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 157803

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: ROK EMBASSY EFFORTS TO BLUNT NIX/FRASER HEARINGS
ON KOREA

1. CHARGE PAK KUN AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR KIM TAE ZHEE
CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SNEIDER JUNE 19 ON
INSTRUCTIONS BY PHONE FROM SEOUL TO EXPRESS GREAT CONCERN
ON NIX/FRASER HEARINGS. THEY SAID ROKG CONSIDERED UP-
COMING NIX-FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
IN KOREA TO BE SERIOUS MATTER AND HAD INSTRUCTED EMBASSY
TO HAVE HEARINGS CANCELLED OR TO "TAKE STING OUT".

2. PAK, SPEAKING UNDER STRESS, PRESENTED DEFENSE OF ROKG
ACTIONS WHICH HE HOPED COULD BE PRESENTED TO CRITICS. HE
CLAIMED ALL ACTIVITIES OF PRESIDENT PARK'S DOMESTIC
OPPONENTS ARE ULTIMATELY AIMED AT ENCOURAGING STREET
VIOLENCE WHICH WOULD BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT. IN THAT
EVENT POWER WOULD BE SEIZED, NOT BY OPPOSITION LEADERS,
BUT BY MILITARY LEADERS WHO WOULD IMPOSE EVEN HARSHER
RULE AND SET BACK DEVELOPMENT OF KOREAN DEMOCRACY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 157803

INDEFINITELY.

3. SNEIDER IN RESPONSE EXPLAINED THAT STATE DEPARTMENT UNABLE TO ARRANGE CANCELLATION OF HEARINGS WHICH ARE CONGRESSIONAL PREROGATIVE. FURTHERMORE, BOTH CONGRESSMEN

FRASER AND NIX, WHO ARE STRONG PROPONENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, HAVE ORGANIZED HEARINGS TO PRESS CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT PARK'S POLICIES. STATE DEPARTMENT WITNESS WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE ROK RATIONALE, BUT LIKELY TO BE CRITICIZED FOR NOT TAKING STRONGER ACTIONS AGAINST ROK. IN BROAD TERMS, POSITION OF DEPARTMENT ON THESE MATTERS HAS ALREADY BEEN PRESENTED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL TO FRASER AND WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ON QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. SNEIDER POINTED OUT THAT STATE DEPARTMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN POSITION OF NEED FOR SECURITY AND STABILITY IN KOREA GIVEN PRESSURES EXERTED BY NORTH. AT SAME TIME, WE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT INVOLVED IN INTERNAL POLICIES OF ROKG, WHICH MUST BE LEFT TO ITS DETERMINATION. HOWEVER, ROKG MUST RECOGNIZE THAT ITS ACTIONS TAKEN ON ITS OWN DECISION WILL CONTINUE TO ENGENDER REACTIONS FROM CONGRESS, PRESS AND PUBLIC, WHICH IT MOST DIFFICULT FOR US TO "TAKE STING OUT."

5. PAK THEN TURNED TO TACTICAL MATTERS AND RAISED POSSIBILITY OF TESTIMONY BY "FRIENDLY" AMERICAN SCHOLAR TO BALANCE REISCHAUER. SNEIDER ADVISED THAT COMMITTEE CONTROLS HEARINGS AND THAT, WHILE SOME MEMBERS MIGHT ASSIST IN PRESENTING SYMPATHETIC VIEWPOINT, BRIEFER HEARING MIGHT BE TO ROK ADVANTAGE.

6. PAK ALSO SAID HE WISHED TO STRESS NEED FOR PROMPT DECISION ON F-4'S, STATING THAT KAL PRESIDENT CHO IS HERE AT PERSONAL DIRECTION OF PRESIDENT PARK TO SEEK57 F-4S. SNEIDER SAID F-4 PROPOSAL IS UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT POSED DIFFICULT PROBLEMS INCLUDING FINANCING. INGERSOLL

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